

Can Power Be Saved?

By Erin Chan Ding and Cathy Norman Peterson, p. 18

In light of recent abuses by Christian leaders, the *Companion* looks at reclaiming a healthy understanding of authority in the church.

1. What do you think constitutes an abuse of power?
2. In the Bible, where do we see people abusing power?
3. The article focuses primarily on pastoral power, but there are other sources of power in a church. What are those sources in your experience?
4. Many of the stories in the news focus on megachurches, often that have only had one senior pastor. How might abuse of power look different in a midsize or smaller church? In a long-established church?
5. Audrey Velez said that the lack of action by the organization's board in response to her experience of abusive behavior meant they were complicit in her abuse. In your experience, how well do boards hold pastors and other leaders accountable? What does a healthy balance of power look like in the church?